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9D-DW-19893
PATENT

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 12, 2004, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks are made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 3, 6, and 10-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4-5 are objected to. Claims 1, 2, and 7-9 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobos et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,571,276) ("Kobos") is respectfully traversed.

Kobos describes an appliance (10) including a door (14) having a front panel (12) and a frame (16) surrounding the front panel. A control panel (18) is positioned along a top end of the door. Additionally, a retaining means is provided for retaining the door panel in relation to the frame. Specifically, a bottom edge (30) of the front panel is secured in position by a retainer strip (32). More specifically, the retainer strip is held in position by an elongated channel member (34) that is secured to the bottom of the frame. The channel member has a resilient upper leg or ledge (52) which extends in a generally forward direction. Also, the channel member has a lower resilient leg or ledge (54) that extends generally in a forward direction. The upper and lower ledges define a channel portion (1036) to receive the retainer strip. The channel member also includes a lip (58) that extends into the channel portion to retain the retainer strip therein. Notably, Kobos does not describe that the control panel is mounted to the channel member. Rather, the channel member is positioned at the bottom edge of the front panel and is merely configured to be coupled to the retainer strip for securing the front panel to the bottom of the frame.

Claim 1 recites an escutcheon for an appliance door assembly, wherein the escutcheon including "a front edge and a rear edge horizontally spaced from said front edge, said front and

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rear edges vertically depending from an escutcheon upper surface...a control panel mounting surface comprising a lower edge, said control panel mounting surface extending upwardly and inwardly from said lower edge and between said front and rear edges...a plurality of formations depending from said lower edge and defining a retaining slot".

Kobos does not describe or suggest an escutcheon as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Kobos does not describe or suggest a control panel mounting surface that extends upwardly and inwardly from a lower edge and between front and rear edges of the escutcheon. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Kobos describes a retainer strip mounted within a channel member to secure a front door panel of an appliance to the door frame, wherein the retainer strip and the channel member are positioned at the bottom of the appliance. Notably, Kobos dose not describe that the control panel is mounted to the channel member. Rather, the channel member is positioned at the bottom edge of the front panel and is merely configured to be coupled to the retainer strip for securing the front panel to the bottom of the frame. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Kobos.

Claim 2 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 2 likewise is patentable over Kobos.

Claim 7 recites an escutcheon for a dishwasher door assembly, the escutcheon including "a lower edge and a plurality of formations depending therefrom, each formation comprising a guide surface formed at an acute angle with said lower edge, said guide surface defining a retaining slot, said guide surface defining a panel engagement portion".

Kobos does not describe or suggest an escutcheon as recited in Claim 7. More specifically, Kobos does not describe or suggest a plurality of formations depending from a

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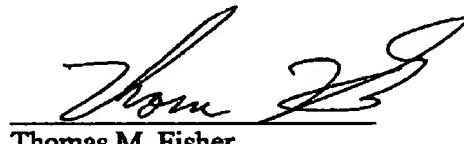
lower edge of the escutcheon, wherein each formation includes a guide surface defining a retaining slot and a panel engagement portion. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Kobos describes a retainer strip mounted within a channel member to secure a front door panel of an appliance to the door frame. Notably, Kobos does not describe a panel engagement portion defined by the inner surfaces of the channel member. Rather, the door panel is secured and engaged by the retainer strip. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Kobos.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Kobos.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 7-9 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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